



## **Children's Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus Artist-in-Residence Program Request for Proposals**

### **Children's Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus Overview**

The mission of the Children's Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus is to create extraordinary experiences that champion the wonder and joy of childhood. We believe in kid-powered learning and every day, our expertly designed exhibits and programs open doors for Colorado's curious young minds to express what they know and to discover, create and explore more - on their own terms.

Since 1973, the Children's Museum has served the metro-Denver community as a learning institute dedicated to the education and growth of young children and their caregivers. The Museum provides rich play experiences and a dynamic learning environment for children to joyously learn through innovative and interactive hands-on exhibits, engaging daily programming and year-round special events. In fiscal year 2023, the Museum served almost 500,000 children and their grown-ups.

For more information, please visit [mychildsmuseum.org/artist-in-residence](https://mychildsmuseum.org/artist-in-residence)

### **Artist-in-Residence Program Overview**

2024 marks the sixth year of the Artist-in-Residence Program at the Children's Museum. This program provides an opportunity for families who visit the Museum to observe and create with professional artists through open studio hours. And, with the help of Museum guests, artists design a custom piece for the Museum.

The Artist-in-Residence Program is open to professional artists working in a variety of media including, but not limited to, painting, sculpture, installation, photography, clay, textiles, illustration and digital media.

The goals of the Artist-in-Residence Program are to:

- Enhance the role of the Museum as a center of cultural and artistic investigation for families and children.
- Make emerging artists' work more accessible to the public.
- Provide new avenues of art exploration for guests of the Museum.
- Connect young children to the power of art-making and art as an expression of identity, experience and community.
- Create and contribute a piece, exclusively for the Museum, to enhance the campus.

## **Summary of Artist Commitments**

1. Training
  - a. Participate in training and orientation at the Children's Museum to meet the staff and gain an understanding of the Museum's pedagogy, programs and facility.
  - b. Participate in an additional best practice training of inclusive education and developmentally appropriate language, in preparation for working with diverse children (ages newborn through 8) and their families.
2. Work on-site in the Museum's Artist-in-Residence Studio at least once a week for 2 - 4 scheduled hours, engaging children and families in the art-making process.
3. Complete a total of 60 hours of on-site programming and open studio activities throughout the 12 week/3 month program.
4. Participate in an open studio finale to celebrate the residency, to be scheduled at the end of the term.
5. Create a piece of art, other artifact or product exhibition that will remain part of the growing community art collection at the Museum.
6. Remain available and/or accessible for trouble-shooting and repairs (if needed) while the piece created for the Museum is on display.

## **What the Residency Offers You:**

- Access to the studio during the Museum's normal hours of operation, when available.
- An opportunity to create a program unique to you.
- Opportunities to showcase your artwork and methods to Museum visitors.
- Drop-in studio time where children and families can work one-on-one with you and your art form.
- A stipend of \$1,000 per month for the duration of the residency.
- A materials stipend for supplies needed for the leave-behind piece, to be agreed upon but not to exceed \$1,000.
- Support for fabrication and installation of the leave-behind piece.

# Children's Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus

## Artist-in-Residence Program

### Application Process

#### Applications Must Include:

- Name, address, contact number, email and artistic medium/media.
- Cover letter, including a paragraph detailing why you are interested in working with the Children's Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus, community children, parents, school groups and early childhood educators.
- Resume or curriculum vitae. Please include experience you have working with children (ages newborn through 8) and/or families.
- A one-page narrative presenting the idea/concept for your leave-behind piece, how your project will support the themes of arts, culture, community, family, identity or communication, and how your project will engage directly with our daily visitors and school groups.
- A one-page narrative of potential topics for process-oriented daily open studio activities to be facilitated to Museum guests and/or school groups.
- Work samples or proposal images (maximum 5 hi-res images) including the title of each piece.
- Social media handles and artist website, if applicable.

#### Application Submission Instructions

Completed applications **must** be submitted via email. Work samples must also be submitted electronically, via email, Dropbox and/or Google Drive. No paper applications, please.

All applications for winter through fall of 2024 are due October 31, 2023. Interviews will start in November 2023. Please submit completed applications to:

#### Salim Khoury

Art Programs Coordinator

Children's Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus

303-561-0121

[SalimK@cmdenver.org](mailto:SalimK@cmdenver.org)

#### The Selection Process

Artists will be selected by a panel organized by the Children's Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus. Decisions are based on artistic merit, proven experience working with children and families, and proposed projects or ideas and how they relate to the themes of arts, culture, community, identity, family and communication. The Museum encourages creativity, however, work must not require heavy machinery or major construction. All artists will be notified after the selection process is complete. The Children's Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus reserves the right to interview candidates and observe instruction before making a decision.

*Please note: Due to the sensitivity and requirements of working with children, artists must clear a background/criminal check prior to their residency acceptance.*